



331 West Main Street, Suite 505 • PO Box 196 • Durham, NC 27702
T 919.687.4840 www.earthsharenc.org

First Corporate Challenge draws 100 volunteers from 11 local businesses

- Professionals from companies across the Triangle volunteered at seven non-profit sites
- Volunteers planted trees, re-routed trail, picked up trash, improved rescued tiger habitat
- Awards presented at First Annual Earth Day Breakfast

DURHAM, N.C., USA, FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – The first Corporate Challenge kicked off in celebration of Earth Day, with over 100 employees participating from 11 businesses across the Triangle. On April 16th volunteers planted 600 trees, picked up 550 pounds of trash, installed 37 feet of fencing and built a 65 foot long wall to improve community garden space, re-routed a trail at the site of endangered plants and expanded habitats for rescued tigers, among other volunteer projects.

“It was incredible to see businesses come together to help the environment and make such a big impact on our community,” said Heather Beard, the executive director of EarthShare NC. “The volunteers arrived at our after-party covered in mud, tired and sore, but with huge smiles on their faces because they really made a difference.”

The Corporate Challenge was created to form partnerships between local businesses and non-profit organizations. This was the first Corporate Challenge in the Triangle, but organizers from EarthShare NC plan to make it an annual event.

One group of volunteers from G&S Business Communications in Raleigh re-routed a section of the Mountains to the Sea trail near rare, endangered plants.

“Without this event, the Friends of the Mountains to the Sea Trail and the folks at G&S would never have met,” said David Bland, a regular volunteer with the Mountains to the Sea Trail who directed the

project. “This was a good vehicle to connect the non-profit and business sectors and introduce a new group to our trail.”

G&S volunteers said they enjoyed seeing the immediate result of their work as they walked back on the trail. In three hours they completed about one-eighth of a mile.

“G&S was looking for a way to give back and support our community in honor of Earth Day,” said Ann Camden, senior vice president at G&S Business Communications. “This was a great opportunity to get our employees out of the office and working with an awesome non-profit organization.”

The celebrations didn’t stop with the Corporate Challenge. EarthShare NC also hosted an Earth Day Breakfast on Wednesday the 22nd, which drew close to 100 people for a business panel, briefing from environmental leaders and awards. EarthShare NC recognized Belk for its commitment to sustainability and environmental health in North Carolina. Awards were also presented to TheeDesign Studio, SAS and Triangle Community Foundation for their work in the Corporate Challenge.

About EarthShare NC

[EarthShare NC](#) was founded in 1991 to strengthen conservation work that protects our water, air, land and wildlife in North Carolina. In support of more than 70 non-profits, EarthShare NC has partnered with employers to connect more people and resources with conservation work, through workplace giving and employee engagement programs. During the last 24 years, thousands of employees have learned about and taken part in programs to preserve our natural heritage. EarthShare NC is an affiliate member of [EarthShare](#).

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Media Contact: Allison Harrison, EarthShare NC, (919) 687-4840 or allison@earthsharenc.org

Mary Withers, G&S Business Communications, (919) 961-1740 or mwithers@gcommunications.com